Texas State Government Gives $13 Million to Islamist Mosques and Community Groups

Officials of the Grantee Organizations Include Open Advocates of Hamas and the Iranian Regime

June 10, 2025 • Sam Westrop

Children at the Islamic Education Center in Houston, which receives money from the Texas state government, perform a song pledging allegiance to Iran's Supreme Leader. Photo: IEC Houston

Clear Lake Islamic Center	$86,286.00
Iman Academy	$306,244.00
Islamic Ahlul Bayt Association	$101,000.00
Islamic Association of Fort Worth	$15,163.00
Islamic Center of Brushy Creek	$99,417.00
Islamic Center of Greater Austin	$149,499.00
Islamic Center of Lake Travis	$70,400.00
Islamic Center of Longview	$1,798.00
Islamic Center of Round Rock	$130,000.00
Islamic Education Center of Houston	$485,601.00
Islamic Education Institute of Texas	$191,850.00
Islamic Society of Greater Houston	$66,597.00
MAS Katy Center	$91,862.00
Masjid Baitus Samee	$15,247.00
Muslim Cemetery	$48,068.00
Muslim Community Center for Human Services	$476,774.00
Nigerian Muslim Association Of	$326.00
Texas Muslim Women's Foundation	$11,068,281.00
Totals (18 groups)	**$13,404,413.00**

The Texas state government has handed over $13 million of federal and state monies to mosques and community groups aligned with Islamist movements such as Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood and Jamaat-e-Islami, as well as hostile foreign regimes.

In sermons reviewed by the Middle East Forum and published in this report, officials and imams of beneficiary mosques expressed rhetoric that was openly pro-terror and anti-semitic.

In two instances, beneficiary mosques appear to be directly partnered with the Iranian regime.

Twelve of the eighteen Islamic organizations that received monies from the state of Texas were found, in an investigation carried out by the Middle East Forum, to be under varying levels of Islamist influence.

These twelve organizations with extremist links received almost 99.4 percent of the funds provided by the Texas state government to Islamic organizations.

While a few thousand dollars in the state government's data consists of the return of escheated funds, the vast majority of the millions spent appear to be the result of direct state grants, subsidy programs, and federal sub-awards managed by the Texas state government.

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Beneficiaries

Islamic Education Center of Houston

Between 2021 and 2023, Texas handed over $485,000 to the Islamic Education Center. The only organization with that name in Texas is Islamic Education Center of Houston (IEC Houston), a leading outpost of the Iranian regime, which uses "Islamic Education Center" as its DBA.

Writing in the *Dispatch*, Moshe Kwiat and Jason Brodsky indicate the IEC is directly managed from Tehran. A biography of the former IEC imam, published on a regime-aligned mosque in the United Kingdom, states that he "was directly appointed by the office of the Supreme Leader as Imam-e-Juma and Resident Aalim of IEC."

Certainly, the mosque's behavior indicates close and consistent coordination with the Iranian regime. In 2022, the mosque organized the filming and performance of a song by children at the mosque, pledging allegiance to Ayatollah Khamenei. The song's lyrics, first documented by MEMRI, state that "[Khamenei] is calling on his children, his soldiers... In spite of my age, I will be your army's commander...May my father and mother be sacrificed for you, I will sacrifice everything for you...I make an oath to be your martyr, Ali."

Video of the performance, pledging allegiance to the Iranian Supreme Leader, produced by IEC Houston

Previously, in 2019, IEC Houston celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, at which children sang: "Khamenei is our leader, we are his soldiers."

In 2020, the IEC organized an event memorializing Ayatollah Khomeini, in coordination with the AhlulBayt Islamic Mission, a British proxy for the Iranian regime.

In 2023, members of Congress called on the Biden administration to investigate four mosques accused of links to the Iranian regime, which included IEC Houston. Lawmakers pointed out that the Houston mosque is on land that belongs to the Alavi Foundation, which the U.S. government alleges is a front for the Iranian government.

Muslim Congress, a Texas Shi'ite Islamist organization and leading Iranian regime voice in the United States, was established at IEC Houston. The Muslim Congress openly promotes the writings and ideas of Ayatollah Khamenei and other senior regime clerics. Across America, this IEC offshoot organizes the rallies for the regime's annual "Al-Quds Day," an infamous annual global event, coordinated from

Islamic Ahlul Bayt Association

The Islamic Ahlul Bayt Association (IABA) in Austin, is a Shi'ite mosque whose leaders maintain close ideological ties to the Iranian regime.

In late 2023, the Texas Governor's Office arranged for $101,000 of funding for the mosque.

Jafar Muhibullah, IABA's resident scholar, studied at the regime's seminary in Qom and received a doctorate from the University of Tehran.

In January, IABA appears to have hosted Muzammil Zaidi, a pro-regime cleric who, in 2024, pleaded guilty to transferring tens of thousands of dollars to Ayatollah Khamenei. According to the Department of Justice, Zaidi and his accomplice "collected payments" of khums, a religious tax, "as well as donations purportedly to help victims of the ongoing civil war in Yemen, from individuals in the United States," before enlisting "friends, family members, and other associates to carry the cash out of the United States."

IABA's YouTube channel features a presentation "the causes that matter to us most," which include "Palestine protest[s]," "Al Quds Day," and the imprisonment of "Sheikh Zakzaky."

Established by Iran's regime, Al Quds Day is a global event promoting the destruction of Israel and celebrating Hezbollah. Sheikh Zakzaky, meanwhile, is the Iranian regime's leading cleric in Nigeria. Zakzaky describes Jews as "the lowest creatures on earth" who "only understand the language of killing."

Jafar Muhibullah, IABA's resident scholar, offers praise for Ayatollah Khamene'i and the Iranian regime

In a video for an Iranian regime media outlet named *Islamic Pulse*, which is based in the city of Qom, IABA's imam, Jafar Muhibullah, praised the work of Zakzaky and his efforts to establish Shi'ite Islamist ideas in Nigeria, praising the "victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979" in Iran, which sought to "establish justice" and "remove oppression."

Muhibullah is openly aligned with Iran's Supreme Leader. In a sermon delivered by Muhibullah in the Iranian city of Qom, he praises and discusses a letter written to the youth of the West by "our leader" Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Clear Lake Islamic Center

Since 2023, the Texas state government has handed over $86,000 to the Clear Lake Islamic Center (CLIC), a Salafi-run mosque south-east of Houston. Two of the grants, totaling over $81,000, were handled by the office of the Texas governor, and appear to be federal government awards; although corresponding awards do not appear in federal government spending datasets.

Haniyeh, leader of the designated terrorist organization Hamas.

us resolute footing in the face of adversity. Grant us victory over those who reject Your truth and deny Your existence.

Ya Allah, Illuminate our hearts with unwavering faith and grant us the strength to overcome the obstacles and challenges presented by the disbelieving people.

In Your infinite mercy, empower us to uphold the principles of righteousness and guide us towards triumph in the face of opposition.

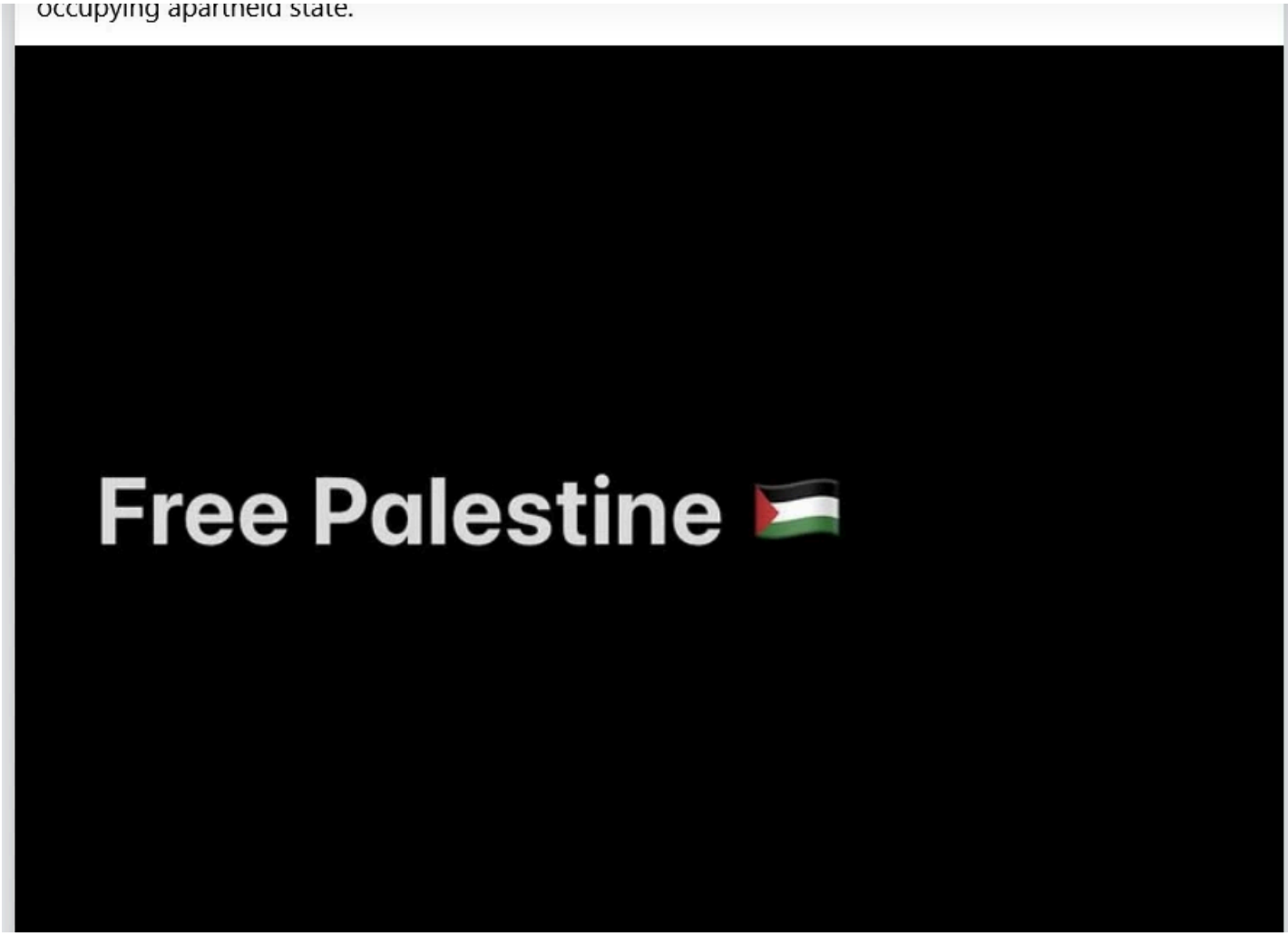
🤲 Ya Allah, shower us with patience, establish us firmly, and bless us with victory over those who turn away from Your divine guidance - Ameen!

WB
WALEED
BASYOUNI
رَبَّنَآ أَفۡرِغۡ عَلَيۡنَا صَبۡرٗا وَثَبِّتۡ أَقۡدَامَنَا
وَٱنصُرۡنَا عَلَى ٱلۡقَوۡمِ ٱلۡكَٰفِرِينَ
OUR LORD, POUR UPON US PATIENCE AND PLANT FIRMLY OUR FEET AND GIVE US VICTORY OVER THE DISBELIEVING PEOPLE.
[SURAT AL-BAQARAH 2 : VERSE 250]

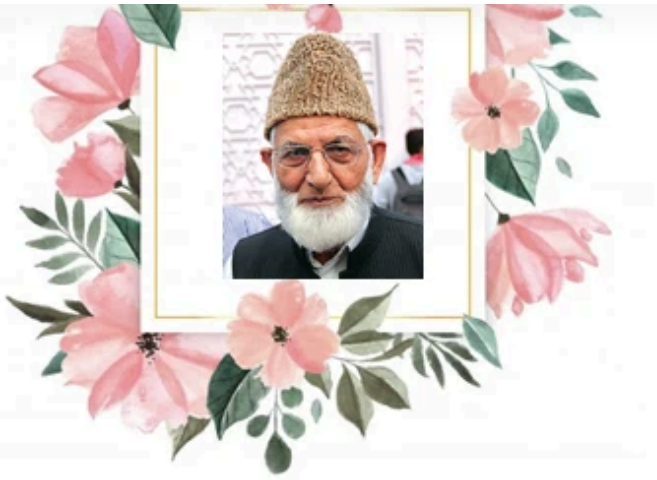
elected PM of a short lived Palestinian Authority government, was assassinated while on a visit to Iran according to media reports.

I have no doubt in my mind that such violence will only lead to more suffering of the people who live in the Holy Land. May Allah have mercy on him and all those who were killed in this conflict. May Allah bring peace and justice to the holy land.

A second imam at CLIC, Ammar AlShukry, on the day of October 7, also appeared to welcome the attacks, urging Allah to "grant" the people of Gaza "freedom from the occupying apartheid state."



Basyouni and AlShukry are top officials at the AlMaghrib Institute, a leading Salafi organization. AlMaghrib's late founder, Muhammad Alshareef, once wrote a paper titled "Why the Jews Were Cursed," in which he claims Jews control the media and murder prophets. Other leading AlMaghrib clerics have included Abdullah Hakim Quick, who calls for the killing of homosexuals, urges God to "purify" Al-Aqsa from the "filth of the *Yahud* [Jews]," and "clean Afghanistan and Iraq" from the "filth of the *Kafiroun* [unbelievers]."



Prayer and Remembrance for Syed Ali Shah Geelani

Thursday, September 9, 2021
6 pm central time (USA and Canada).
Register in advance for this event at:
https://tinyurl.com/2aythwup

Program

Remembrance:
Dr. Ghulam Nabi Mir, President, World Kashmir Awareness Forum

Dua:
Dr. Muzammil Siddiqui, Religious Director, Islamic Society of Orange County
Scholar Emeritus, Islamic Shura Council of Southern California

Sponsors:
World Kashmir Awareness Forum, Islamic Circle of North America Council for Social Justice, Amnesty International-Bay Area (Houston), Clear Lake Islamic Center (CLIC), International Humanitarian Foundation (IHF),
Coalition of Americans for Political and Social Awareness (CAPSA),
Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)-National,
Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)-Houston,
Resist Innovate Sacrifice and Educate (RISE) Houston
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California

For more information, please contact: bigmomkn@yahoo.com

Geelani was previously described as the "head of jihad" for Jamaat-e-Islami's branch in Kashmir. Since 2000, Geelani was also involved with Hizbul Mujahedeen, a terrorist organization designated by the U.S. government. In its obituary for Geelani, *Al Jazeera* described Geelani as the terrorist group's "spiritual leader."

In 2024, CLIC ran an event at its mosque, in collaboration with Human Appeal, that featured the pro-Hamas activist Sami Hamdi. CLIC's partner, Human Appeal, is an international Islamist charitable franchise repeatedly accused of involvement with terrorist organizations and their proxies.

Islamic Center of Round Rock

Texas provided $130,000 to the Islamic Center of Round Rock in 2023.

In a 2021 sermon at Round Rock, the speaker offers long explanations of why Jews have no claim to the land of Israel and insists the land will be "purified" from the "filth" of the "Zionist" presence.

Zionists, he claims, are "torturing and killing the children." Because "Zionist influence" is everywhere, including within America's "political system," he argues that when "we, the Muslims in the 21st century, get rid of the Zionist regime in that area, we will bring freedom to the entire world."

Another talk, given just weeks after the October 7 massacre, argues that the Jews kill prophets because "this is their attributes." Christians, the speaker claims, support Israel because they fear "how powerful the Islamic state could become if there's no force that will stop them."

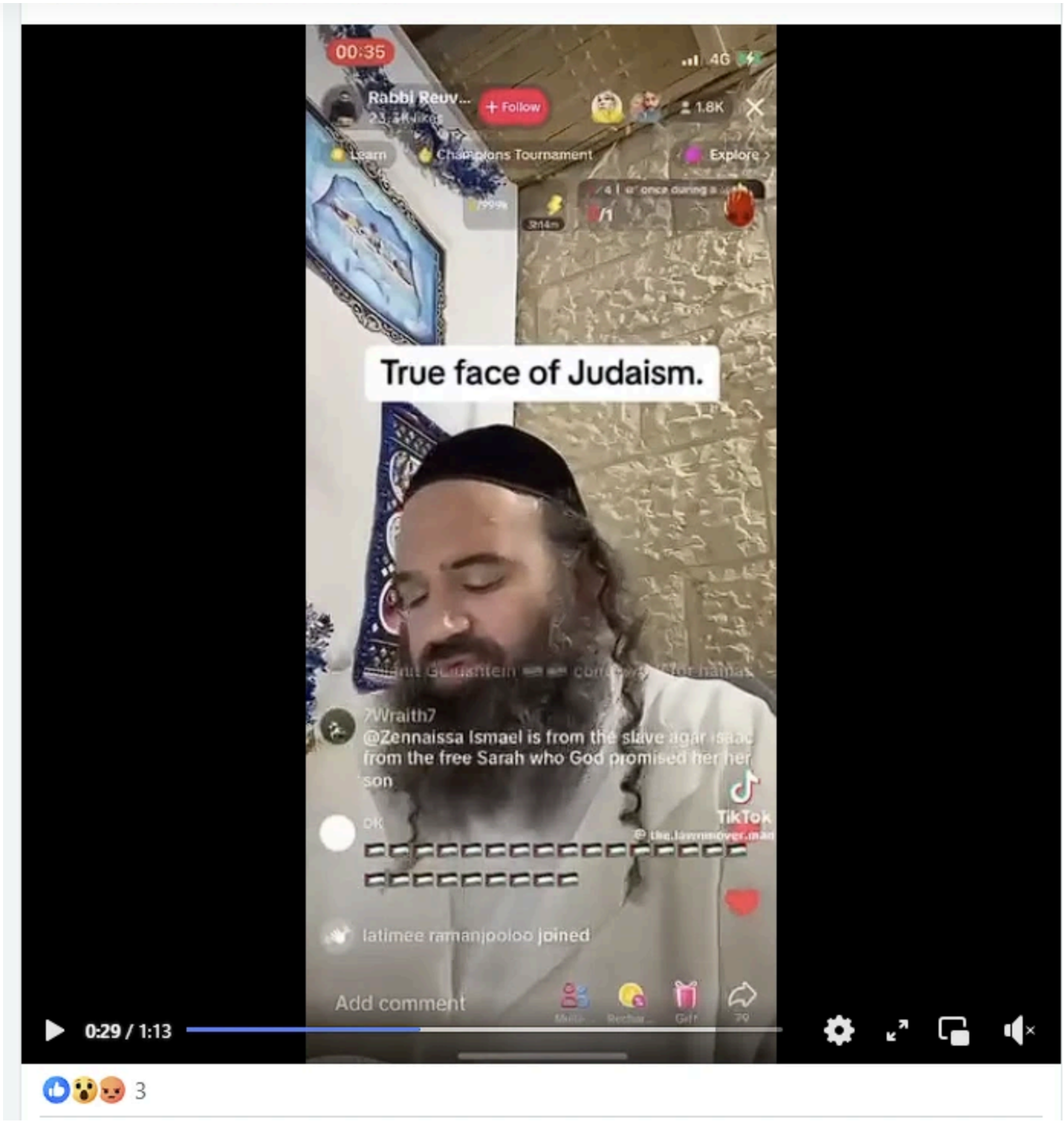
The speaker encourages the mosque's congregants to support American Muslims for Palestine, which members of Congress allege has "ties to Hamas."

The mosque's Saudi-trained imam offers similar rhetoric about "genocide" on his Instagram account.

Islamic Center of Brushy Creek

The state of Texas gave over $99,000 to the Islamic Center of Brushy Creek, based in Cedar Park, a suburb north-west of Austin.

FOCUS ON WESTERN ISLAMISM



The Islamic Center of Brushy Creek's imam, Jawad Rasul, studied at the extremist Salafi AlMaghrib Institute. He previously worked at Al-Furqaan Foundation, a prominent Salafi group that receives support from the Qatari regime. An undercover *FWI* investigation in 2022 found that books sold by Al-Furqaan Foundation advocated jihad and peddled 9/11 conspiracy theories.

shared conspiracy theories that Israel created ISIS.

In January 2024, after the White House disavowed Nihad Awad, head of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) over his apparent praise of the October 7 attacks, the Islamic Center of Brushy Creek signed a letter in support of CAIR.

Islamic Center of Greater Austin

Texas gave $150,000 to the Islamic Center of Greater Austin.

The mosque's imam, Dawood Yasin, is a former recruit of Tablighi Jamaat, a global Deobandi missionary movement linked by security services to dozens of terrorism and radicalization cases.

The mosque has organized multiple events on the "genocide" and "massacres" in Gaza. On October 18, Dawood Yasin hosted the pro-Hamas activist Sami Hamdi, who offered a histrionic speech filled with tears, conspiracy theories about "Zionist" power over the American political system, and wildly inflated casualty numbers in Gaza.

reports Canada's *National Post*, to "celebrate the victory" of the Hamas massacre: "Allah has shown the world that no normalization can erase the Palestinian cause. When everybody thought it was finished, it is roaring. How many of you felt it in your hearts when you got the news that it happened? How many of you felt the euphoria? *Allahu Akbar*!"

Muslim American Society Katy Center

The Texas Governor's office oversaw the transfer of $91,862 to the Katy branch of the Muslim American Society (MAS). The Katy branch is also known as Masjid Ar-Rahman.

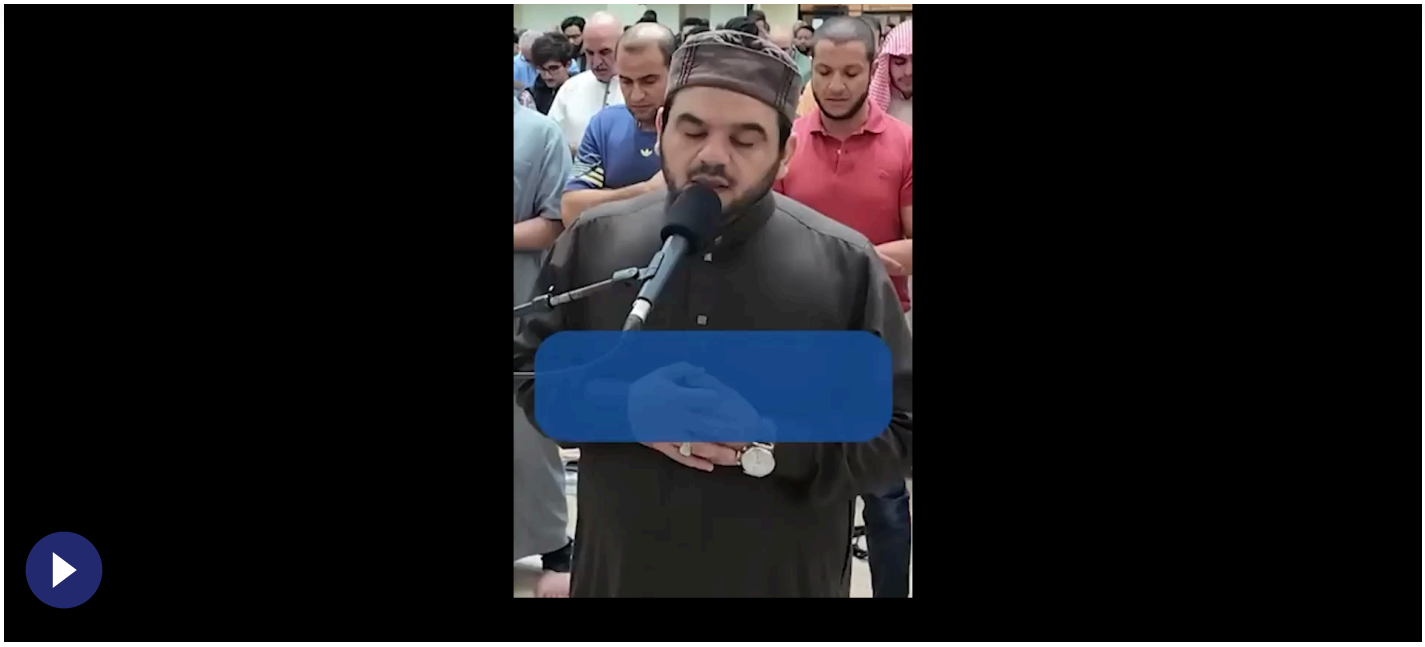
MAS Katy is a branch of the nationwide Muslim American Society organization, which federal prosecutors have described as "the overt arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in the United States."

In 2019, Members of Congress called for an investigation into MAS after one of its branches in Philadelphia hosted an event in which children sang about torturing and beheading Jews.

Main Alqudah, a founder of the MAS Katy Center, declares in rulings published by the Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America, that women may not engage in public speaking, and insists that girls must be taught to wear the hijab from the age of seven.

Alqudah has admitted that, while in Jordan, he "advocated for the imposition of Islamic law instead of secular law." Alqudah also disclosed involvement with the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. Today, MAS Katy frequently invites prominent supporters and advocates of the Muslim Brotherhood to its events..

In one of several published "Beautiful Recitations" on MAS Katy's social media page, imam Ahmad Elhadad states: "O Believers! Take neither Jews nor Christians as guardians[,] they are guardians of each other. Whoever does so will be counted as one of them. Surely Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people ... with sickness in their hearts."



During the coronavirus pandemic, MAS Katy Center sought only to prevent women and children from attending services.

Foundation to Advance Islamic Teaching in Houston

The Texas Workforce Commission provided over $306,000 of funding in 2023, through its "Coronavirus Relief Fund," to the Foundation to Advance Islamic Teaching in Houston (FAITH), which operates several schools in the Houston area.

FAITH was founded by Hamdy Radwan, a prominent Muslim Brotherhood activist. Radwan has explicitly stated that the terrorist organization Hamas is "not" a "terrorist organization," but "freedom fighters."

Radwan long served as a leading official in the Muslim American Society, which federal prosecutors have described as "the overt arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in the United States." In 2019, Members of Congress called for an investigation into its Philadelphia branch after it hosted an event in which children sang about torturing and beheading Jews.

and the blacklisting of the organization in multiple Arab and European countries. At its U.S. branch, Islamic Relief staff have included Khaled Lamada, who, in 2017, circulated text on social media praising the "jihad" of the "Mujahidin" for "causing the Jews many defeats," and republished claims on Facebook that praised Hamas for inflicting a "huge defeat" against the "Zionist entity." Another staff member, Yousef Abdullah, has praised the killing of Jews, among other anti-Semitic remarks.

At Radwan's FAITH schools in Houston, students are taught Islamist ideas such as "tarbiyah," a concept largely conceived of and implemented by the Muslim Brotherhood, in which Islamic ideas are applied to every aspect of a student's education and personal life, in an effort to rebuild society.

ISGH and the Islamic Education Institute of Texas

Since 2018, the state of Texas has given over $66,000 to the Islamic Society of Greater Houston. And between 2024 and 2025, Texas also provided $191,850 to one of the ISGH's subsidiaries, the Islamic Education Institute of Texas.

The ISGH network does not comprise just the Education Institute, but dozens of schools and mosques under its control across Houston. The ISGH network has a long history of extremism, frequently holding events with proxy organizations for the violent South Asian Islamist movement Jamaat-e-Islami, such as the Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA), the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), as well as Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD).

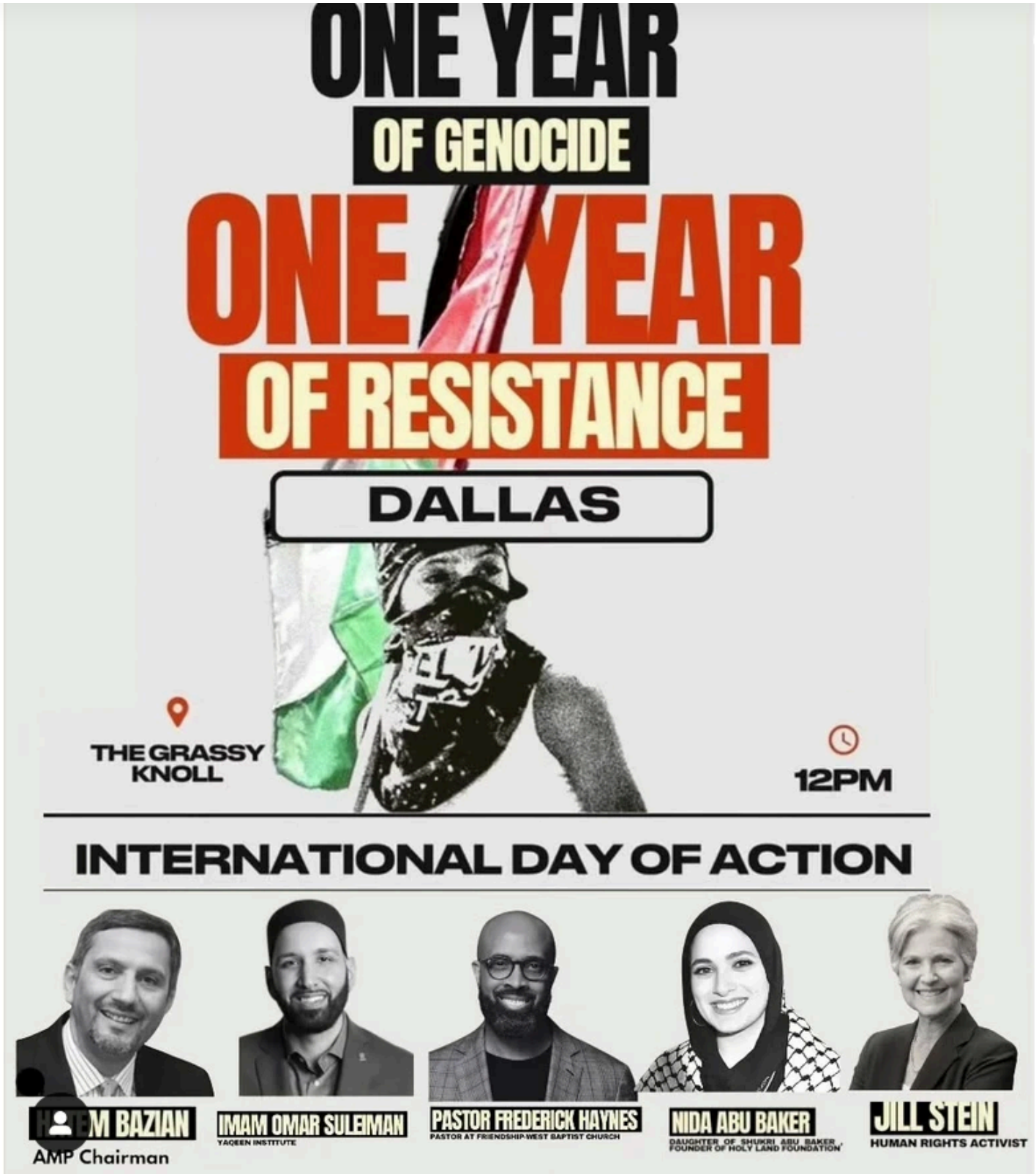
In 2018, the Middle East Forum uncovered that HHRD partnered with designated terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba in Pakistan. This and other evidence of ICNA and HHRD's extremism and terror ties led to inquiries by Congress, as well as an official investigation launched by the Inspector General for the United States Agency for International Development in 2021.

In partnership with HHRD and ICNA, in 2017, several ISGH mosques hosted Yusuf Islahi, a member of the Central Advisory Council of the Indian branch of Jamaat-e-Islami. Islahi reportedly claimed that Jews were behind the 9/11 attacks, as part of a conspiracy to defame Islam.

and then deported in 2011, reportedly for immigration violations.[7] In a 2020 sermon, Bouchikh called non-Muslims: "The worst of Allah's creations, even lower than animals are those who disbelieve and refuse to [believe]."

In 2021, a Middle East Forum investigation found ISGH involvement with Pakistani Islamist and Kashmiri jihadist network in Houston. One ISGH subsidiary, the state-funded Islamic Education Institute of Texas, is registered at an address in West Houston used by an elaborate coalition of Pakistani foreign agents and Kashmiri jihadist operatives central to this network.

Another ISGH imam, Eiad Soudan, claimed in 2023, reports MEMRI, that Jews seek to exploit and "take control of the economy."



Nida Abu Baker, daugher of convicted terrorist Shukri AbuBaker, campaigns for the Palestinian "resistance."

Islamist organization, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

In 2024, the ISGH hosted, in collaboration with the radical Muslim American Society (profiled above) the activist Nida Abubaker, a Texas-based Islamist who backs Palestinian "resistance" and Palestinian "fighters." Abubaker is the daughter (and advocate for) convicted terrorist Shukri AbuBaker; as well as a supporter of Al Qaeda terrorist Aafia Siddiqui.

Muslim Community Center for Human Services

The government of Texas gave over $476,000 to the Muslim Community Center for Human Services, which runs the Al-Shifa Clinic in Dallas-Fort Worth.

The Muslim Community Center for Human Services (MCCHS), established in 1995, does not obviously share the outright Islamism of the previously profiled organizations in this report. However, Islamists have sat at the organization's fringes for many decades.

MCCHS's early advisory board included Azhar Azeez, a key Islamist activist in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Azeez is today the CEO of Muslim Aid, a terror-aligned charity, established by the violent South Asian Islamist movement Jamaat-e-Islami, headquartered in the United Kingdom.

Another former advisor to the MCCHS, Yusuf Kavakçı, is a prominent Turkish Islamist long involved with Hamas networks in North Texas. After he returned home to Turkey, Kavakçı has come a leading voice for the Turkish regime and an open defender of Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood.

In the early 2000s, the founder of MCCHS, Basheer Ahmed, was a contributor to the Association of Muslim Social Scientists and the International Institute of Islamic Thought, key Hamas-linked thinktank institutions of the global Muslim Brotherhood, and leading components of a terror finance network investigated by the federal government in the 2000s.

In more recent years, MCCHS continues to invite Islamist imams to its events, including Azhar Subedar, a DFM imam who trained in the United Kingdom with Tablighi Jamaat, a global Deobandi missionary movement linked by security services to dozens of terrorism and radicalization cases; and

Texas Muslim Women's Foundation

The bulk of the monies to Islamic organizations from the state of Texas were handed to the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation (TMWF). Between 2015 and 2025, this totaled over $11 million.

As with the Muslim Community Center of Human Services, the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation has a habit of inviting Islamists and other radicals into its midst.

In 2011, TMWF promoted, an event organized by the Hamas-aligned Students for Justice in Palestine activist network and the anti-Semitic and pro-terror activist Samir Abed-Rabbo, an event on "Uncovering the Zionist Myth."

Samir Abed-Rabbo appears to celebrate the beginning of the October 7 attacks, writing "A morning of resistance!"

In 2017, TMWF hosted Omar Suleiman, a leading radical imam. Suleiman is a leading supporter of convicted Al-Qaeda terrorist Aafia Siddiqui, as well as terror-tied Islamist preacher Zakir Naik and former convicted terrorist Ali Al-Tamimi. Suleiman has called for a third Intifada.

TMWF is also a partner of the Muslim American Society, the leading offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood in the United States. MAS's Dallas branch has repeatedly expressed support for convicted operatives of the designated terrorist group Hamas.

Raw Data

Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$290,055	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$282,715	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$276,032	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$271,354	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$261,249	Public Ass
Foundation To Advance Islamic Teaching In Houston	Texas Workforce Commission	$217,141	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$214,756	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$211,400	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$207,265	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$206,967	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$200,347	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$197,814	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$189,526	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$186,613	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$179,523	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$177,034	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$176,546	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$176,298	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$173,790	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$173,743	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$168,976	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$163,946	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$157,679	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$157,450	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$147,649	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$140,234	Public Ass
Islamic Center Of Round Rock	Governor-Fiscal	$130,000	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$128,976	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$121,161	Public Ass
Texas Muslim Womens Foundation	Governor-Fiscal	$117,602	Public Ass

Sheet1

Sam Westrop

Sam Westrop has headed Islamist Watch since March 2017. Before that, he ran Stand for Peace, a London-based counter-extremism organization.

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